



Frequently Asked Questions

May 2014 IASBO Conference

Revised May 28, 2014

1. Why do I have to submit the same debt info every year?

While the Department is working to be able to depend on Gateway Debt Management for this information, the Department is still encountering a number of units that have discrepancies between the final documents and the information in Gateway Debt Management. As a result, the Department requests the hard copy information for verification purposes. In addition, the Department has seen amortization schedules change year over year (particularly with those bonds that include a Federal subsidy), so collection of the debt information each year allows the Department to ensure we have the most recent information for the purposes of the Department's budget review. The Department will continue to look for improvements to the process.

2. Why do I have to submit the same debt info to SBOA and DLGF separately?

At this time, the Department and SBOA use this information for different purposes and oftentimes may use this information in different geographic locations. While the Department and SBOA have had discussions on ways to better coordinate the collection of this information, it is still a work in progress. The Department will continue to look for improvements to the process.

3. Why don't the DLGF and SBOA accounts match?

The Department's account numbers have historically differed from those used by both SBOA and DOE. As we transition to a more electronic system, we understand the difficulties this poses in regard to being able to efficiently complete information on Gateway and being able to compare information across multiple sources. The Department is continuing to have discussions on how to better coordinate the code lists. A key aspect of this discussion is how to adapt our internal technology structure to allow for better coordination. The Department will continue to look for improvements to the process.

4. Why does my field rep still require me to submit paper copies of various documents (and why can't I submit them on Gateway?)

As you are aware, school budgets have many different components and many documents must be provided in order to be able to accurately review a school's budget. Some of these documents can be substantial in size. Many of the Department's field representatives work in the field and are limited in their printing resources. Printing these large documents in the field cannot be accommodated using the Department's current resources. As a result, the Department requests that schools provide information in paper form in order to facilitate the Department's review. The Department will continue to look for improvements to the process.

5. If my school corporation receives a protected taxes waiver, are we able to choose where we take the circuit breaker loss?

No, according to HEA 1062 – 2014, if a school corporation is granted a protected taxes waiver, the circuit breakers losses are to be proportionate based on the levy for each fund. The Department will be sending much more information out on protected taxes in the next couple of weeks.

6. If a unit uses actual July through December appropriations on Line 2 of the Form 4B for one fund, why must it use actual appropriations for all funds?

If a unit requests to use actual appropriation information on Line 2 for one fund, the Department requires it for all funds to ensure that a unit is treated consistently across all funds and for enhanced transparency. This also limits the ability to manipulate levies and budgets among funds.